



THE WORLD'S GREATEST

SUPERHEROES™
PRESENT

SUPERMAN

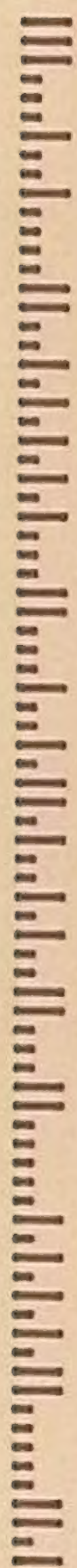


US \$7.29 • A TOP BOOK • \$2.50
CAN \$7.30 • \$3.50

THE BEST OF SUPERMAN'S
NEWSPAPER ADVENTURES

>>#2.50

ISBN 0-812-57729-9



THE WORLD'S GREATEST

SUPERHEROES™

PRESENT

SUPERMAN™



A TOM DOHERTY ASSOCIATES BOOK

This is a work of fiction. All the characters and events portrayed in this book are fictional, and any resemblance to real people or incidents is purely coincidental.

**THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHEROES PRESENT
SUPERMAN**

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First Tor printing: May 1982

A TOR Book

**Published by Tom Doherty Associates, Inc.
49 West 24 Street
New York, N.Y. 10010**

Edited by Laurie S. Sutton.

Interior design and production by Bob Rozakis, Shelley Eiber and Alex Saviuk.

**ISBN: 0-812-57729-9
CAN. ED.: 0-812-57730-2**

Printed in the United States of America

0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3

INTRODUCTION

It was two seventeen-year-old boys who started it all.

In the January 1933 issue of their fanzine, *Science Fiction*, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster published a story called "The Reign of the Super-Man," in which they introduced the idea of a man with abilities beyond those of normal humans. His powers were super-*mental* in nature, and he did not leap over tall buildings with a single bound, but the *idea* was there, and over the course of the next year the two boys worked on their creation. By the summer of 1934, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster were ready to spring their "Superman" on the world!

It took them four years to find a buyer.

Originally proposed as a newspaper strip, "Superman" was finally published as the headliner for a new comic book called ACTION COMICS. There's never been an issue of the comic without the Man of Steel since.

The rest, as they say, is history.

The success of Superman spawned a galaxy of super-stars. The modern super-heroes of the comics, from Batman to Spider-Man and beyond, might never have been if Superman had not led the way. Thus began the age of super-heroes—and it's still going strong.

Special mention should be made here of Wonder Woman, who is presently celebrating her first forty years in comics. Until 1942, no super-heroine had made it big. M.C. Gaines, known as the father of the comic book, decided to do something about it. He got together with psychologist William Moulton Marston—who believed that women were naturally superior to men—and they went to work on creating their own female super-hero. The result of that collaboration was Wonder Woman. It was decided that Marston would write the feature, but he wished to use a pen name. Gaines' middle name was Charles, and Marston's was Moulton—so they chose the *nom de plume*, "Charles Moulton."

Wonder Woman debuted in the back of an issue of ALL STAR COMICS, which featured the Justice League of America, a group of super-heroes from various magazines published under the DC symbol. Even though the Amazing Amazon was not mentioned on the cover of that particular issue, she proved popular enough to go on to star in the new SENSATION COMICS, and was such a hit that in only a few months she had her *own* title.

One of the earliest specialists was The Flash, who debuted in FLASH COMICS in 1940. No super-strength here—he was simply the fastest man alive, and all his super-stunts had to do with his incredible swiftness. For nearly a decade, he starred in FLASH COMICS and ALL-FLASH COMICS before entering limbo as the first "era" of super-heroes came to an end. He looked very different from the way he does now. In those days, he sported a cap which resembled that of the legendary Mercury. Then, in 1956, DC held an editorial meeting to decide what features might be included in a new comic called SHOWCASE. Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman had survived and were still doing well, so it was decided that a new, modernized version of The Flash might be a good idea. He's the very one you will find in the pages of this book.

Aquaman, King of the Seven Seas, was the creation of the late Mort Weisinger, a long-time editor for DC Comics. Aquaman was a super-hero of

the high seas, and could live underwater and command all the creatures of the oceans. His powers and abilities have not changed throughout the years, though his origin was changed twice.

Aquaman did not belong to any hero group in the '40's—possibly because he was confined to sea tales. But when the Justice League was formed in 1960, the Sea King became a charter member, and has remained so ever since.

Today, Superman, Wonder Woman, The Flash, and Aquaman are among the 16 members of the Justice League of America. With them are other DC super-stars, including Batman, Green Lantern, Hawkman, and The Atom. This is the group which gave birth to the World's Greatest Superheroes strip, whose premiere storyline comprises the contents of this book.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

MARTIN PASKO WRITER

Mr. Pasko has been a contributor to the comics medium since 1971, and spent two years as the writer of the *Superman* comic book. He has also scripted the adventures of Batman, Wonder Woman, and a host of other popular DC Comics superheroes. A one-time newspaper columnist, he also continues to contribute to cinema, stage, radio and television productions.

GEORGE TUSKA PENCILLER

Mr. Tuska is perhaps best noted for his work on the popular *Buck Rogers* and *Scorchy Smith* strips. He has lent his talents to Superman, Wonder Woman, Batman, and other noted superheroes.

VINCE COLLETTA INKER

Mr. Colletta has been active in the comics field since 1954, inking a wide variety of comic books. He has worked on nearly every major super-hero published in the last two decades, and has been an integral part of The World's Greatest Superheroes strip since its beginning.

**IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS,
A FAMILIAR CRY RINGS OUT...**

LOOK!...



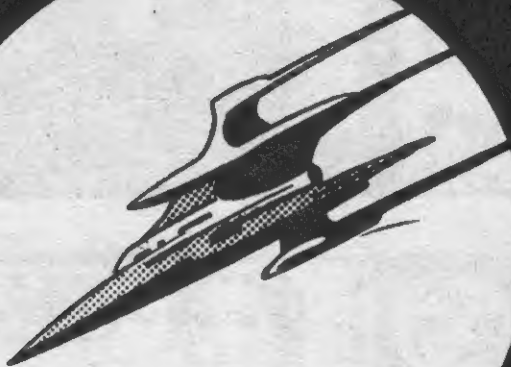
**--UP
IN THE
SKY!**

**IT'S A
BIRD!**

**IT'S A
PLANE!**



A FAMILIAR CRY, BUT WITH A DIFFERENCE:



No!
IT'S A NUCLEAR
MISSILE--
HEADING
STRAIGHT FOR
METROPOLIS!

ACCORDING TO
MY CALCULATIONS,
IT'LL STRIKE IN
TWO MINUTES!

ONLY A
MEMBER OF
THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE COULD
STOP IT!

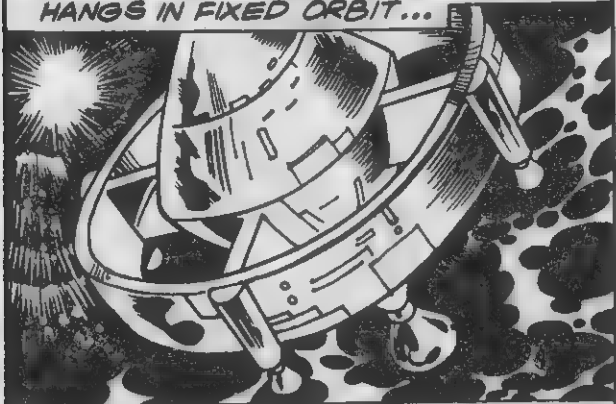


THAT
ASTRONOMER
DOESN'T
KNOW
IT YET,
BUT IT'S
GOING
TO
TAKE
TWO
JUSTICE
LEAGUERS
TO
AVERT
THE
IMMINENT
DISASTER:

SUPERMAN AND THE FLASH!



**22,300 MILES ABOVE EARTH, AN
AWESOME MAN-MADE SATELLITE
HANGS IN FIXED ORBIT...**



**THIS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE
JUSTICE LEAGUE...**

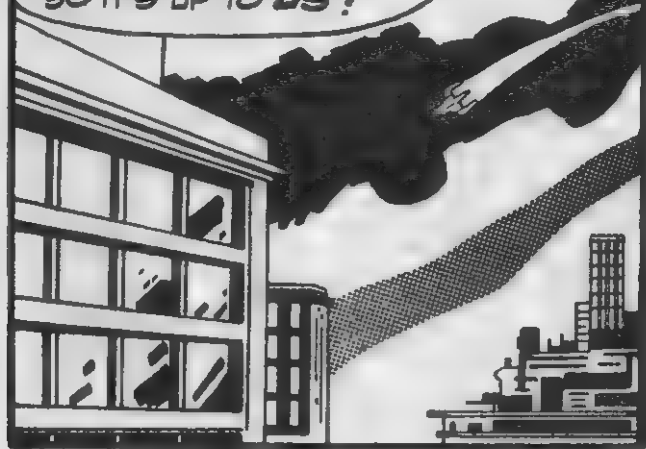
**NOW TWO OF THEM--SUPERMAN AND THE
SUPER-FAST FLASH-- EMBARK ON A
DESPERATE RACE TO STOP THE NUCLEAR
MISSILE FROM DESTROYING METROPOLIS !**

**IF YOU HADN'T SPOTTED
THAT "NUKE" ON OUR
SATELLITE'S EARTH-
MONITORS, FLASH--
METROPOLIS WOULD
BE DOOMED !**



**STOPPING THAT NUCLEAR
MISSILE WILL REQUIRE
SUPER-SPEED, FLASH--
SO IT'S UP TO US !**

#

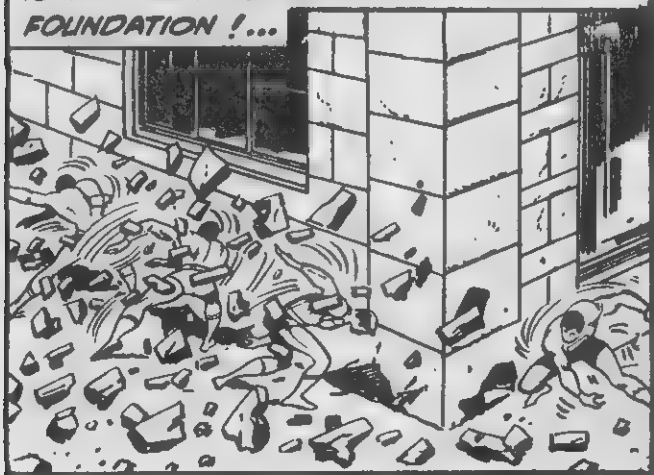


**IF WE
STOP THAT MISSILE
HERE-- IN FRONT OF
THAT SKYSCRAPER--
THE SHOCK WAVES
FROM THE EXPLOSION
WILL DESTROY THE
BUILDING!**





AND AFTER GIVING SWIFT INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS COMRADE, SUPERMAN BEGINS TO DIG THE SKYSCRAPER OUT OF ITS FOUNDATION !...



AND LIFTS IT INTO THE AIR!



WHILE ON THE FAR SHORE OF
METROPOLIS BAY...


ACCORDING TO
SUPERMAN'S
INSTRUCTIONS,
I'VE GOT TO
BUILD THIS
CLAMP-LIKE
APPARATUS AT
SUPER-SPEED--!



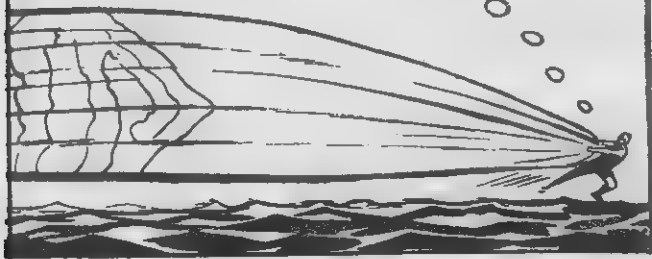
IT'LL HOLD ONE END OF SUPERMAN'S
CAPE ...ENABLING ME TO STRETCH THE
CAPE OUT ACROSS THE BAY--AND
STOP THAT ONCOMING "NUKE"!



JUST AS A PROPERLY HURLED
PEBBLE CAN SKIM OVER THE
SURFACE OF A BAY, THE FLASH
CAN RUN ON WATER SO FAST HIS
FEET NEVER EVEN BEGIN TO SINK!

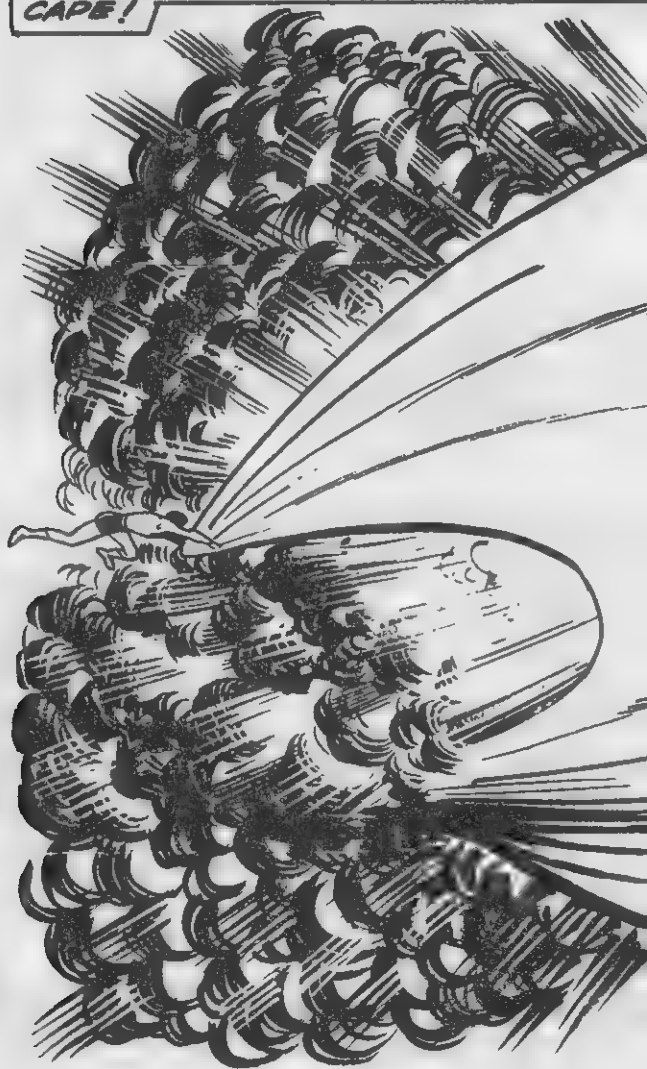


HERE IT COMES! BUT IF
SUPERMAN DOESN'T
GET HERE IN TIME --
GOODBYE, FLASH!





**WITNESS AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION--
CONFINED WITHIN SUPERMAN'S
SUPER-ELASTIC AND INDESTRUCTIBLE
CAPE!**





AND AFTER SUPERMAN HAS DECONTAMINATED THE CAPE...

WHAT'S THIS--SOMETHING
FALLING OUT FROM
INSIDE IT--?



LOOK WHAT FELL
OUT OF MY
CAPE, FLASH!





WHAT IS
IT?

A VIDEOTAPE
CASSETTE!!
IT WAS PROBABLY
INSIDE THE
MISSILE!!



INCREDIBLE! IT MUST
BE MADE OF AN IN-
DESTRUCTIBLE MATERIAL
TO HAVE SURVIVED THE
BLAST!

C'MON--LET'S GET UP
TO HEADQUARTERS AND
PLAY BACK THE MESSAGE.

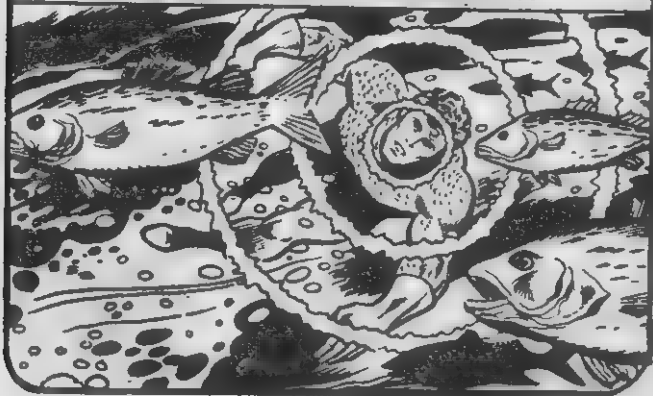
INSIDE THE JLA SATELLITE, TWO MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE WAIT ANXIOUSLY FOR THEIR COMRADES...



THEY ARE : THE AMAZING AMAZON, WONDER WOMAN--WHO BATTLES EVIL WITH THE AID OF HER MAGIC LASSO AND INCREDIBLE AMAZONIUM BRACELETS...



...AND AQUAMAN--KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS--
WHO COMMANDS THE DENIZENS OF THE DEEP
WITH HIS TELEPATHIC POWERS...



SOON, INSIDE THE SATELLITE
HEADQUARTERS...

WHATEVER'S ON THIS CASSETTE
WILL PROBABLY EXPLAIN WHO
SENT THAT MISSILE--AND
WHY!



BUT JUST THEN...

WHA--WHAT'S
THAT?



A MAN--
MATERIALIZING
OUT OF
THIN AIR!





GREETINGS, JUSTICE
LEAGUE! I SEE YOU
WERE SUCCESSFUL
IN STOPPING THE
NUCLEAR MISSILE
I SENT TOWARD
METROPOLIS!



IT WAS INTENDED AS A HARBINGER--
A "PREVIEW," IF YOU WILL--OF MY
LATEST... "PROJECT"!

I SHALL MAKE
MYSELF
IMMORTAL...



...BY CREATING A
SERIES OF DISASTERS
THAT WILL CLAIM
MILLIONS OF
LIVES!

NOT IF I
CAN HELP IT,
SAVAGE!



**ATTACKING THE INTRUDER, SUPERMAN
DISCOVERS...**

HE--HE'S
JUST A
HOLOGRAM--

--A
3-DIMENSIONAL
PROJECTION!



CORRECT--
I WAS NEVER
REALLY HERE
AT ALL!

I LEAVE YOU
NOW--TO DO
WHAT YOU CAN
TO AVERT THE
HOLOCAUST
I WILL UNLEASH--
IF YOU DARE!



WITH THAT, THE IMAGE OF VANDAL SAVAGE VANISHES...

**WHAT DID HE MEAN--
HE'LL CREATE
DISASTERS THAT
WILL MAKE HIM
IMMORTAL?**

**I DON'T KNOW--
MAYBE THE
ANSWER'S ON
THIS VIDEOTAPE!**



**VANDAL SAVAGE'S VIDEOTAPE TELLS
HIS STRANGE SAGA...**

**I AM OVER 50,000 YEARS OLD!
I HAVE BECOME ALMOST IMMORTAL--
THANKS TO THE RADIATION OF A
METEOR TO WHICH I WAS EXPOSED!**



"I FIRST LIVED 50,000 YEARS AGO-- AS A
CRO-MAGNON MAN--WHEN THE EXPLOSION OF
A METEOR BATHED ME IN STRANGE RADIATIONS..



!.. WHICH ALLOWED ME TO LIVE ON WHILE THE
OTHER CRO-MAGNONS DIED OUT! I BECAME
VANDAL SAVAGE-- "IMMORTAL"! HOWEVER...



"I FIRST BEGAN TO AGE IN THE YEAR
1800 B.C.-- WHEN I WAS THE KING OF
SUMER! DESPERATELY, I SOUGHT A
WAY TO REJUVENATE MYSELF...



"BUT THE SCIENCE OF THE ANCIENT SUMERIANS AVAILED ME NOTHING-- AND SO, TO STAVE OFF DEATH, I RESORTED TO BLACK MAGIC..."



I FOUND AN ANCIENT SUMERIAN MYSTIC TEXT--CONTAINING SECRETS OF BLACK MAGIC LOST TO HISTORY... SECRETS WHICH ONLY I NOW POSSESS!



FROM IT, I LEARNED THAT
ALL HUMANS HAVE A
LIMITED, PRE-ORDAINED
LIFE-SPAN--



--BUT WERE I
TO TERMINATE
THE LIVES
OF OTHERS
PREMATURELY---
THROUGH THE METHODS
PRESCRIBED BY THE
TEXT'S MAGIC SPELLS...


...I COULD "INHERIT" THE UNUSED
PORTION OF MY VICTIMS' LIFE -
EXPECTANCIES! THUS, FOR CENTURIES,
I HAVE REJUVENATED MYSELF--THROUGH
MURDER!




**"DOWN THROUGH THE AGES, I BECAME
SEVERAL MURDERERS--TO PRESERVE MY
IMMORTALITY..."**

**"I WAS
CHEOPS--
WHO SENT
HUNDREDS
TO THEIR
DEATHS
IN BUILDING
MY PYRAMID..."**





**"LATER, I WAS
GENGHIS KHAN,
THE MOST RUTHLESS
CONQUEROR WHO
EVER LIVED!"**



**"AND AS ADVISOR
TO NAPOLEON, I
ENGINEERED THE
DISASTROUS
FRENCH INVASION
OF RUSSIA!"**



SO DO I-- BUT IN THE PAST,
WE'VE LEARNED NOT TO
SCOFF AT SUCH THINGS--
INCREDIBLE AS THEY
SEEM!



I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY HE WOULD TIP HIS HAND
TO US! WHY NOT STRIKE
SUDDENLY-- WITHOUT
WARNING?



I DON'T KNOW, AQUAMAN--
BUT I SUGGEST THAT THE
THREE OF US TELEPORT
BACK TO EARTH...AND
KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR
SIGNS OF TROUBLE!

YOU STAY
HERE AND
KEEP AN
EYE ON
OUR EARTH-
MONITORS!

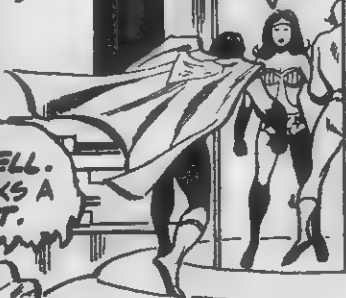


ALL RIGHT--I REALIZE SOMEONE
MUST STAY BEHIND. BUT WHY
ME? I MIGHT BE NEEDED
PLANETSIDE, TOO!

HIGHLY
UNLIKELY--
UNLESS
SAVAGE
STRIKES AT
SEA!



SWELL.
THANKS A
LOT.



WITH THAT, THE OTHERS RETURN
TO EARTH--AND THEIR CIVILIAN
IDENTITIES...



SUPERMAN RESUMES HIS
GUISE OF TV-NEWSCASTER
CLARK KENT...

...WHILE ONCE AGAIN, THE FLASH
BECOMES POLICE SCIENTIST
BARRY ALLEN...



**WONDER WOMAN AGAIN BECOMES
UNITED NATIONS EMPLOYEE DIANA
PRINCE...**



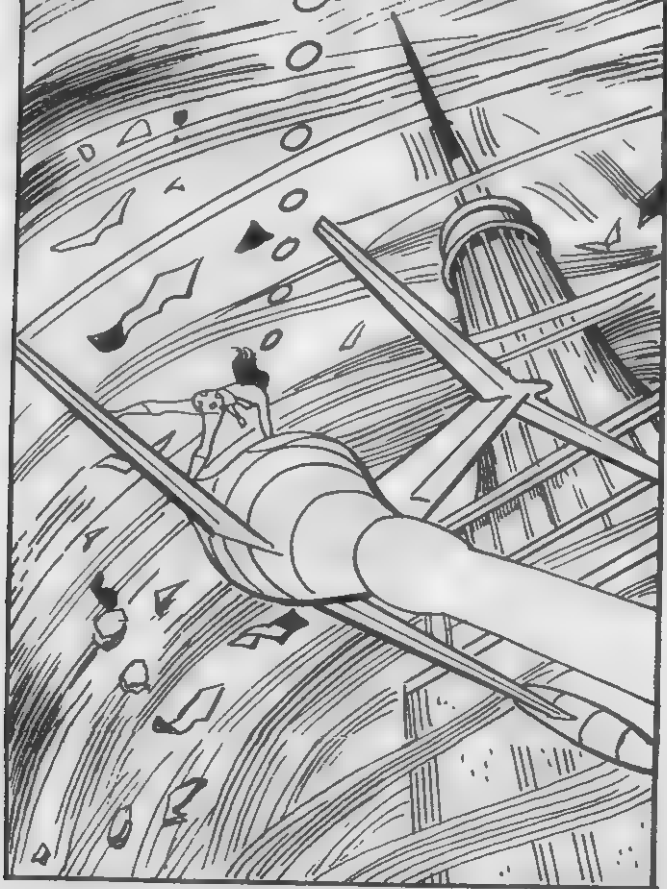
**BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO SETTLE
INTO A ROUTINE--FOR SOON,
DISASTER STRIKES...**



**...IN THE FORM OF A FREAK TORNADO
ABOUT TO STRIKE NEW YORK !**

... WHICH IMMEDIATELY PROMPTS DIANA
TO RETURN TO ACTION--AS WONDER
WOMAN!!

A TORNADO HITTING
MANHATTAN--THAT'S
VIRTUALLY A SCIENTIFIC
IMPOSSIBILITY!



THE WIND'S ABOUT TO SNAP
OFF THE TV AERIAL ATOP
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
BUT IF I ROPE IT WITH MY
MAGIC LASSO...



...I CAN LASH IT IN PLACE--eh?
MERCIFUL MINERVA!



**ROBOT ARMS--
GRABBING ME--?!
WHERE IN HERA'S
NAME DID THEY
COME FROM??**



**SUFFERING
SAPPHO!
THEY--THEY'RE
CHAINING MY
BRACELETS
TOGETHER!**



I'M POWERLESS! WHENEVER AN
AMAZON'S BRACELETS ARE
CHAINED TOGETHER, SHE LOSES
HER AMAZON STRENGTH
INSTANTLY!



BUT SINCE THE CHAINING
MUST BE DONE BY A MAN
TO RENDER ME HELPLESS--
VANDAL SAVAGE MUST BE
BEHIND THIS!





SUDDENLY...

**GREETINGS, WONDER
WOMAN! I TRUST
YOU HAVE GUESSED
THAT I AM
RESPONSIBLE FOR
YOUR PRESENT
CAPTIVITY--?**



**VANDAL SAVAGE-- APPEARING IN
ANOTHER HOLOGRAM? THERE
MUST BE A LOUDSPEAKER OF SOME
SORT CONCEALED AMONG HIS
MACHINERY HERE--SO I CAN
HEAR HIM--!**



**NOW
WHAT
DOES
HE WANT??**

**THERE'S SOMETHING... ODDLY
FASCINATING ABOUT THIS
VANDAL SAVAGE! HE'S
TERRIFYING--YET SOMEHOW...
IRRESISTIBLE--!**



YOU FIND ME...**ATTRACTIVE**,
MY DEAR--DON'T YOU?
OF COURSE...WE HAVE
A LOT IN **COMMON**,
YOU AND I...



...EACH OF US COMES FROM
A CIVILIZATION **CENTURIES**
OLD! YOU FROM **PARADISE**
ISLAND... AND I--FROM THE
DAWN OF TIME!



**EVEN THOUGH YOU AND I WERE
OLD WHEN THE WORLD WAS
YOUNG, MY PRETTY--STILL,
MY WISDOM OUTWEIGHS
YOURS!**



**I AM 50,000 YEARS
OF AGE! I HAVE LEARNED
FROM THE SCIENCE AND
MAGIC OF COUNTLESS
CULTURES!**



**BABYLONIA... ATLANTIS...
LEMURIA... THE FABLED LOST
CIVILIZATIONS--I LIVED AMONG THEM!**

**I KNOW THEIR *SECRETS*!
AGAINST MY SCIENTIFIC AND
MYSTICAL KNOWLEDGE, THE
WONDERS OF EVEN *THIS*
AGE PALE BY COMPARISON!**



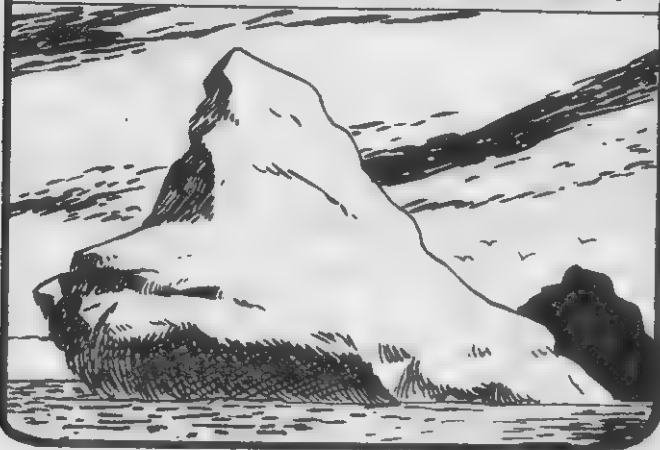
**AND THANKS TO THAT KNOWLEDGE,
I SHALL *LIVE FOREVER*!**

**MEANWHILE, AQUAMAN IS ON SENTI-
NEL DUTY IN THE TEAM'S HEADQUARTERS...**



**SENSORS INDICATE AN
INEXPLICABLE HEAT WAVE
WASHING OVER THE NORTH
POLE...**

"... AND THE ICECAP THAT COVERS MOST
OF GREENLAND HAS BEGUN TO MELT!
THE ENTIRE EARTH COULD BE FLOODED!"



**"...AND THE BEST MAN FOR
THE JOB IS-- THE FLASH!"**

**IN CENTRAL CITY,
POLICE SCIENTIST
BARRY ALLEN
GOES ABOUT HIS
WORK...**

...UNTIL...

**AQUAMAN--
CALLING ME ON MY
JUSTICE LEAGUE
COMMUNICATOR!
NO DOUBT VANDAL
SAVAGE HAS
STRUCK!**




**IN
SECONDS,
THE
FLASH
RACES
FROM THE
MIDWEST
TO THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
NORTH
ATLANTIC
OCEAN...**



...TO FIND...

**...ICEBERGS!
HUNDREDS
OF THEM!**



A close-up of Flash's face, looking down with a serious expression. He is wearing his signature mask and suit. In the background, there are jagged ice formations and a body of water with icebergs.

... AND THIS FAR SOUTH--
THE 45TH PARALLEL--
THAT'S JUST NOT NORMAL!
THEN ITS TRUE...

...THE POLAR ICECAP
IS MELTING--BREAKING
UP INTO THESE
ICEBERGS!

AT HYPER-SPEED, FLASH RACES--
COMBING THE ICEBERGS TO FIND THE
SOURCE OF THE MYSTERIOUS ARCTIC
HEAT WAVE!

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN
RE-FREEZE THE
NORTH POLE!

THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE
IS TO FIND--AND
REVERSE--THE CAUSE
OF ITS MELTING!

WAIT--SOMETHING
PECULIAR ABOUT
THAT GLACIER--!



THOSE LITTLE PUFFS
OF VAPOR--THEY'RE
BARELY NOTICEABLE,
BUT I'D SWEAR THEY'RE
WISPS OF STEAM--



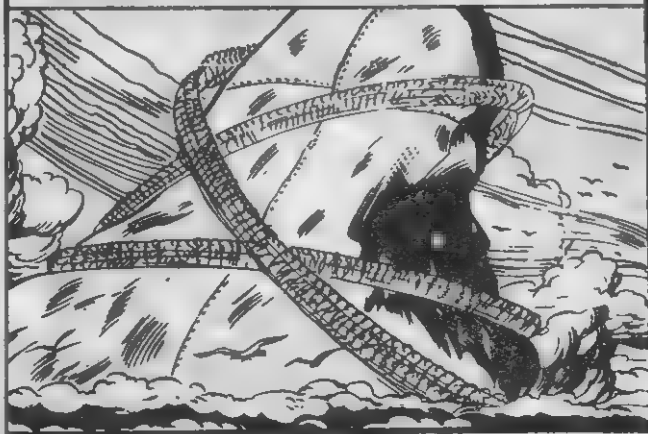
--WHICH MEANS THAT "ICEBERG"
IS WARMER THAN THE MOIST
AIR SURROUNDING IT!

AND NOW THAT I GET
A **CLOSER LOOK**
AT IT, THAT HUNK OF
"ICE" HAS **RIVETS**
DRIVEN INTO IT!

WHY, THAT
GLACIER IS
PHONEY--
IT'S MADE OF
METAL!



WITH THAT, FLASH RACES ACROSS THE
SURFACE OF THE "GLACIER" AT **SUPER-
SPEED--STOMPING HEAVILY AS HE RUNS...**



**PUMMELING THE "GLACIER" WITH HIS
SUPER-FAST FEET, THE SPEEDSTER
GETS IT TO VIBRATING-- AND, EVENTUALLY,
THE SUPER-VIBRATIONS CAUSE ITS METAL
CASING TO CRACK APART--
REVEALING...**

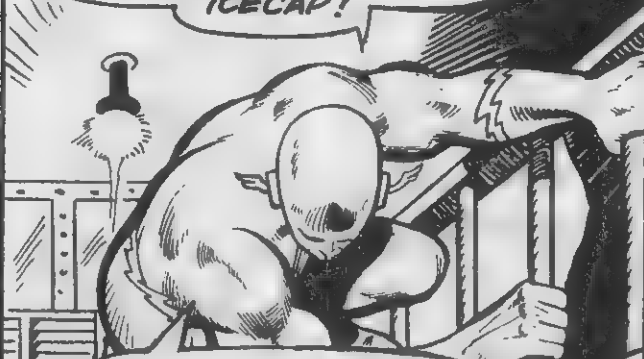
**...SOME
KIND OF
HEAT RAY--!**





ENTERING THE DEVICE THROUGH AN
OPENING IN THE RAY-PROJECTOR'S HOUSING ...

**THIS MUST BE WHAT'S CAUSING
THE MELTING OF THE POLAR
ICECAP!**



**IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE
INSULATION IN MY COSTUME,
I'D BE BURNED TO A
CRISP BY NOW!**

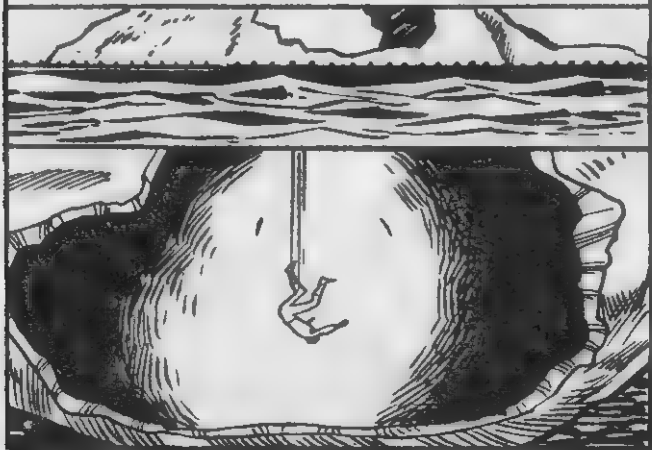
**WHA--?! I'VE INTERCEPTED
SOME KIND OF ELECTRIC
EYE-BEAM--!**





NO SOONER HAS
THE FLASH TRIPPED AN
ELECTRIC EYE-BEAM.
THAN A TRAPDOOR YAWNS
OPEN BENEATH HIM!

--AND HE DISCOVERS-- TO HIS HORROR--
THAT EVEN IN THE CASE OF AN ARTIFICIALLY
CREATED ICEBERG, THREE-FOURTHS
OF IT LIES BENEATH THE SURFACE!

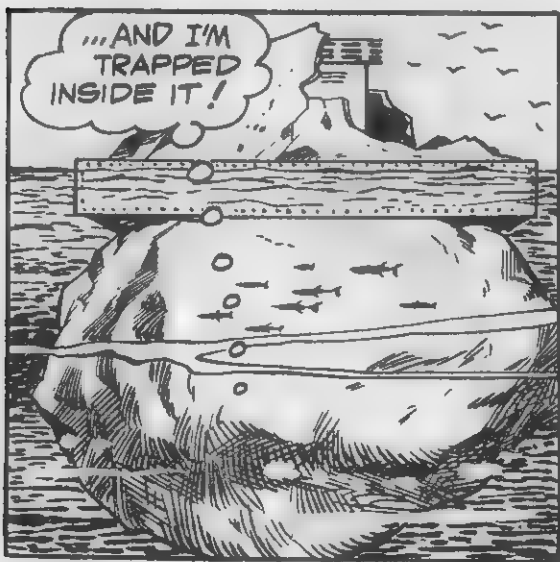


THIS CHAMBER-- IT'S ICE-COLD!
OBVIOUSLY, MOST OF
VANDAL SAVAGE'S ARTIFICIAL
ICEBERG WAS UNDERWATER--
JUST LIKE REAL ONES...



...BUT THIS
SUBMERGED
PART IS HEWN OUT
OF REAL ICE...

...AND I'M
TRAPPED
INSIDE IT!



ONLY ONE
THING TO
DO--

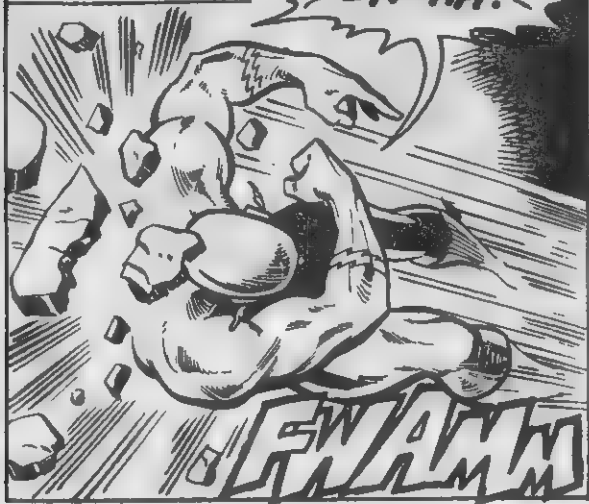
--VIBRATE MY WAY
OUT OF THIS
ICE-PRISON--*



* FLASH CAN CAUSE HIS BODY'S
MOLECULES TO VIBRATE--ALLOWING
HIM TO PASS THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS!

HOWEVER...

UNHHH!



IT'S N-NO USE! C-CAN'T GET
M-MY BODY TO V-VIBRATE--
M-MUSCLES TOO STIFF--
T-TOO COLD!

G-GOING...
TO...
FREEZE
TO
D-DEATH!



INSIDE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE SATELLITE...

**WONDER WOMAN--ABOUT TO BE
KILLED IN A FREAK TORNADO IN
NEW YORK...AND FLASH--
FREEZING TO DEATH AT THE
NORTH POLE--!**

**I'LL SUMMON
SUPERMAN,
AND--**

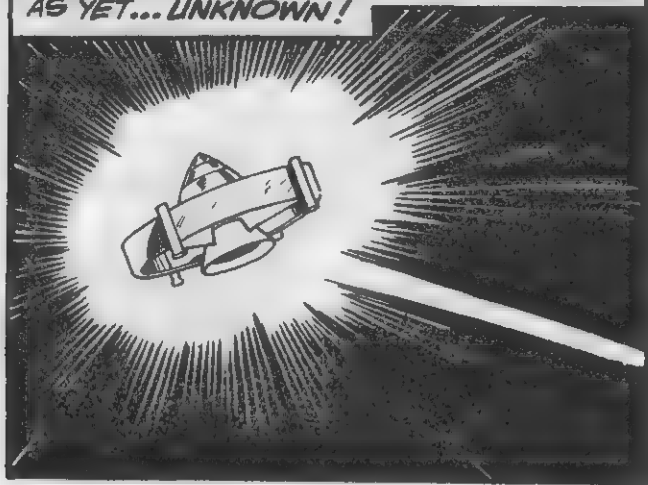
**NO! I'LL PROVE
TO THE OTHERS
THAT I'M MORE
USEFUL THAN
THEY THINK!**

**I'LL
HANDLE IT
MYSELF!**

**MAYBE I CAN'T DO MUCH OUT OF
WATER-- BUT WITH MY FRIENDS
IN THAT KIND OF DANGER, I'VE
GOT TO TRY!**



**SUDDENLY--THE SATELLITE IS STRUCK
BY A STRANGE BEAM! ITS ORIGIN?
AS YET... UNKNOWN!**



**THE RESULT: AQUAMAN IS STRUCK
DOWN JUST AS HE ATTEMPTS TO
DEPART THE SATELLITE--TO HELP
HIS IMPERILED COMRADES!**



WHILE IN METROPOLIS...

**GREAT KRYPTON! THIS
NEWS-BULLETIN
IS...INCREDIBLE!**

**THE WHOLE
WORLD HAS
GONE CRAZY!**

**NEWS
ROOM**

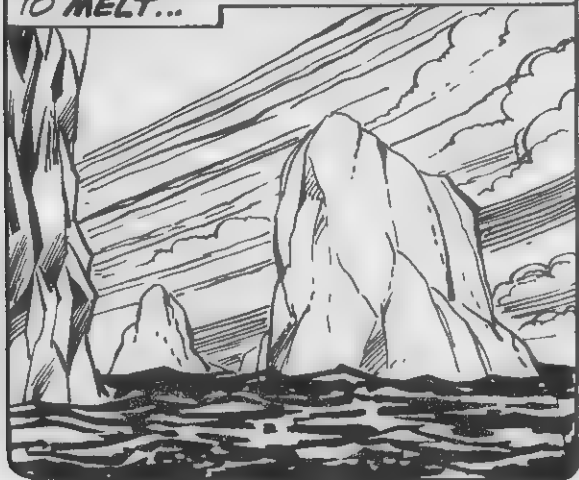


**AN INCREDULOUS CLARK KENT READS
REPORTS OF DISASTERS ALL OVER
THE GLOBE...**

**AS IF A FREAK
TORNADO HITTING
NEW YORK CITY
WEREN'T ENOUGH..**



"...NOT TO MENTION THE MYSTERIOUS
WAY THE **POLAR ICE CAP** HAS BEGUN
TO MELT...



"...NOW **CAIRO, EGYPT**, IS
BEING THREATENED BY A
SANDSTORM-- MOVING AT
95 MILES AN HOUR! A WIND
THAT FEROCIOUS CAN ONLY
HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY...
VANDAL SAVAGE!"



A DESERTED ALLEY IN METROPOLIS...

**I'M SURE
WONDER
WOMAN
CAN HANDLE
THE TORNADO
IN NEW
YORK
BY HER-
SELF!**



**BUT THE OTHER JUSTICE
LEAGUERS MAY BE IN
OVER THEIR HEADS
TRYING TO PREVENT
THE NORTH POLE
FROM MELTING!**

**I'LL HAVE
TO HELP!**



BUT **FIRST**--I'VE
GOT TO TAKE CARE
OF THIS **SAND-**
STORM HERE IN
THE **SAHARA!**



I'LL HAVE
TO **DIG A TRENCH**
IN THE GROUND...



...WHICH WILL PROVIDE
A **GOOD FOUNDATION** FOR
THE **WALL** I MUST
BUILD! NOW I NEED
BRICKS--!



--AND IN AN *EMERGENCY*,
I HAVE TO *TAKE* THEM
WHERE I CAN *GET*
THEM--FROM THIS
PYRAMID!





**I HATED DESTROYING A FAMOUS
LANDMARK FOR THESE BRICKS--
BUT I CAN *RESTORE*
THE PYRAMID *LATER!***



BUT IN THE NEXT INCREDIBLE
INSTANT...

GREAT KRYPTON!
CAN I BE
HALLUCINATING-
OR HAS THE
SPHINX
SOMEHOW
TURNED INTO
KRYPTONITE...



...THE ONE SUBSTANCE
THAT IS DEADLY TO ME?!



BUT IF IT'S ONLY A **MIRAGE...**
WHY DO I FEEL SO
WEAKKKK...?



AND WHEN HIS BLEARY EYES FOCUS
ON THE **SPHINX** ONCE MORE, HE
FINDS IT AGAIN TRANSFORMED...

**SUPERMAN, THE
FACE YOU SEE BEFORE
YOU IS ANOTHER OF
MY HOLOGRAPHIC
PROJECTIONS!**



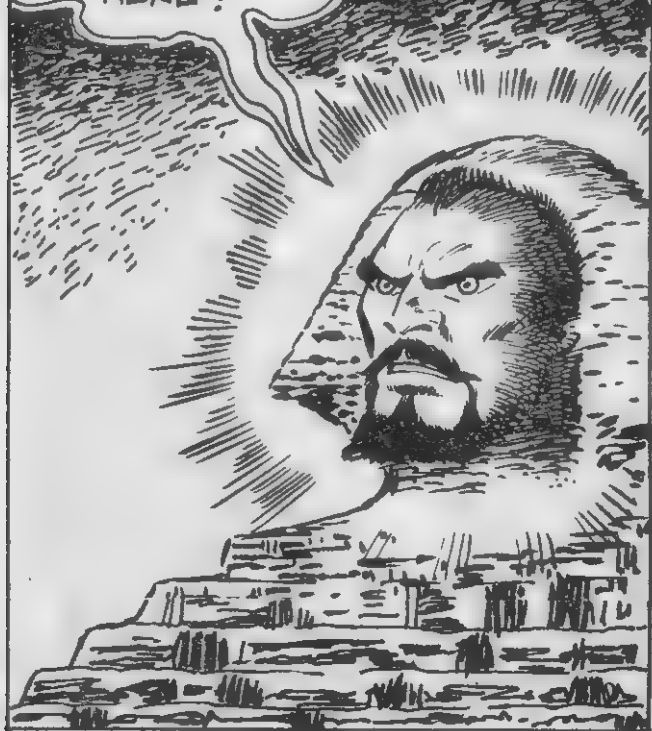
I AM SPEAKING
TO YOU VIA
**SHORT-WAVE
RADIO...**

...FROM A LOUDSPEAKER
CONCEALED WITHIN THIS
COUNTERFEIT **SPHINX**--
WHICH **I** HAVE
CONSTRUCTED
OF **KRYPTONITE**
AND PLACED
HERE!






... IT HAS BEEN
HIDDEN BEHIND AN
INVISIBILITY SCREEN
I HAD PLACED
AROUND IT
WHEN I CREATED
THE **SANDSTORM**
THAT LURED YOU
HERE !




**THE FLASH, WONDER WOMAN
AND SUPERMAN-- CAUGHT IN TRAPS
SET BY VANDAL SAVAGE-- WATCH
HELPLESSLY AS SAVAGE APPEARS
BEFORE THEM IN 3-DIMENSIONAL
PROTECTIONS...**

THE SANDSTORM...

**THE MELTING OF THE
POLAR ICECAP...
THE TORNADO-- ALL
WERE DISASTERS I
CREATED...**



**...MERELY TO LURE
YOU INTO THE TRAPS
I PREPARED FOR
YOU! NOW, NOT
ONLY WILL THOSE
DISASTERS CLAIM
MILLIONS OF
LIVES...**



**...BUT
SUPERMAN,
FLASH
AND
WONDER
WOMAN
WILL DIE
AS WELL!**



**"NOTHING WILL STOP
MY MASTER-
STROKE..."**

**"... A DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE
THAT WILL BE UNLEASHED IN EVERY
CONTINENT! HUGE TIDAL
WAVES WILL RESULT..."**

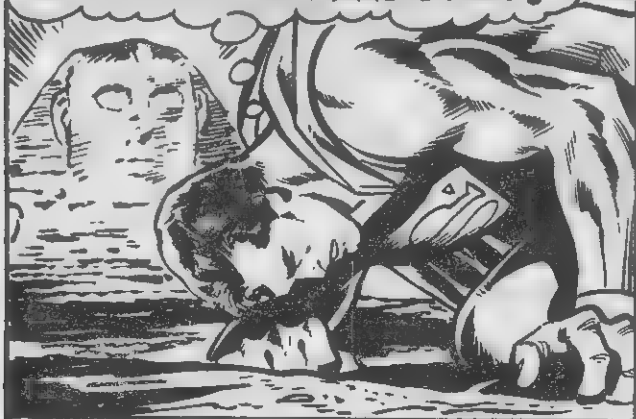


**"...AND ALMOST ALL LIFE ON
EARTH WILL BE SNUFFED OUT!"**

**IN HIS SECRET LAIR, THE IMMORTAL
VILLAIN GLOATS IN TRIUMPH...**



**THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT
OF THIS KRYPTONITE TRAP!
MUST FIND IT... WHILE I STILL
HAVE SOME POWERS LEFT!**



**THAT WALL--
I CAN'T SEE
THROUGH IT
WITH MY X-RAY
VISION! GOOD!**



**ITS BRICKS MUST
CONTAIN LEAD--THE ONE
SUBSTANCE MY X-RAY
VISION CAN'T PENETRATE!**

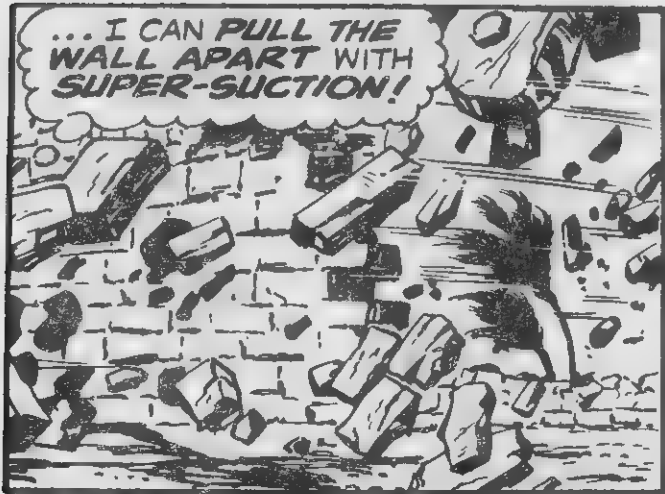


**BUT LEAD ALSO BLOCKS
KRYPTONITE RADIATION--SO...**

**...BY INHALING MIGHTILY WITH
MY SUPER-LUNGS...**



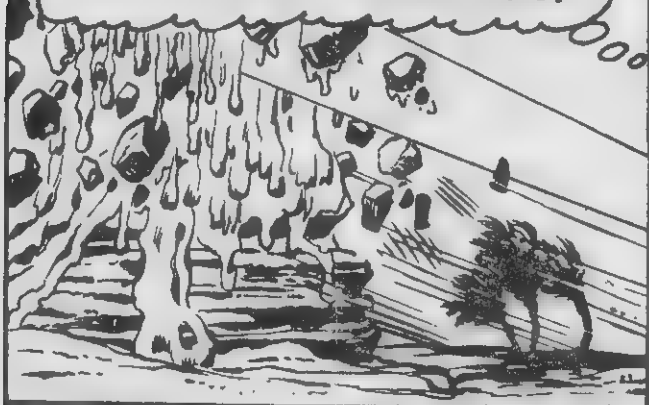
**... I CAN PULL THE
WALL APART WITH
SUPER-SUCTION!**



**NOW I EXHALE--
BLOWING THE BRICKS
AWAY FROM ME--WHILE
I HIT THEM IN *MIDAIR*
WITH *HEAT VISION*...**




...TO MELT THE LEAD IN THEM
AS THEY SAIL OVER THAT
KRYPTONITE SPHINX--AND
FORM A **MOLTEN LEAD**
COATING THAT WILL BLOCK
OUT ITS DEADLY RADIATIONS!




MY PLAN
WORKED!
THE LEAD
BLOCKED
OUT THE
KRYPTONITE
RADIATIONS!




A black and white comic book panel showing Superman flying through a sandstorm. He is wearing his iconic suit with the 'S' shield on his chest and a cape. He is holding a small, dark, cylindrical object in his right hand. The background is filled with horizontal lines and clouds, indicating a high-speed flight through a storm. A speech bubble is located in the upper left corner of the panel.

NOW TO FIND OUT
WHAT DIABOLICAL
DEVICE VANDAL
SAVAGE HAS
USED TO CREATE
THIS SANDSTORM!

SEARCHING THE AREA WITH HIS
TELESCOPIC VISION,
SUPERMAN SEES..

A black and white comic book panel showing Superman from the chest up. He is wearing his iconic suit with the 'S' shield on his chest and a cape. He is holding a long telescope to his eye and looking through it. The background is dark and indistinct.

THAT
MACHINE
DOWN THERE--
IT'S...INCREDIBLE!

A black and white comic book panel showing a large, mechanical device with a long barrel, resembling a giant wind machine or a large cannon. The device is angled upwards and to the right. In the background, there are some small, stylized trees or plants. The foreground shows some grass or foliage.

...IT'S LIKE A
GARGANTUAN
WIND-MACHINE!

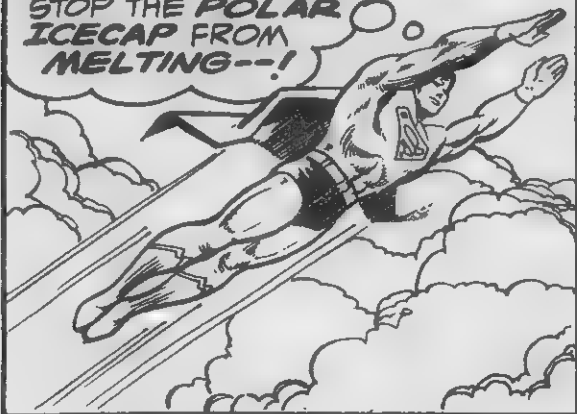
WHURRR



**SO MUCH FOR THE
WIND-MACHINE...
AND THE SANDSTORM!**



**TIME TO CHECK ON THE
FLASH AT THE NORTH
POLE! HOPE I'M NOT
TOO LATE TO HELP
STOP THE POLAR
ICECAP FROM
MELTING--!**



**MEANWHILE, AT THE TOP OF THE
WORLD--INSIDE THE MAN-MADE
GLACIER THAT HOLDS FLASH
PRISONER ...**

**WAIT A
MINUTE...**



**...I CAN'T VIBRATE
MY WAY OUT OF HERE--
BUT MAYBE I CAN
PUNCH MY WAY OUT!**



IT'S **WORKING!** GETTING OUT **THIS**
WAY WILL TAKE LONGER THAN
VIBRATING-- BUT AT LEAST I
WON'T **FREEZE TO DEATH!**



**AT SUPER-SPEED, FLASH'S
FISTS PUMMEL THE ICY WALL OF
THE CHAMBER WITHIN THE GLACIER...**



**YET IT'S NOT REALLY HIS FISTS THAT
STRIKE THE WALL-- BUT BLASTS OF
SUPER-COMPRESSED AIR! HIS
HANDS MOVE SO FAST THAT THEY
CREATE AIR POCKETS--
CUSHIONING THEMSELVES FROM
IMPACT!**



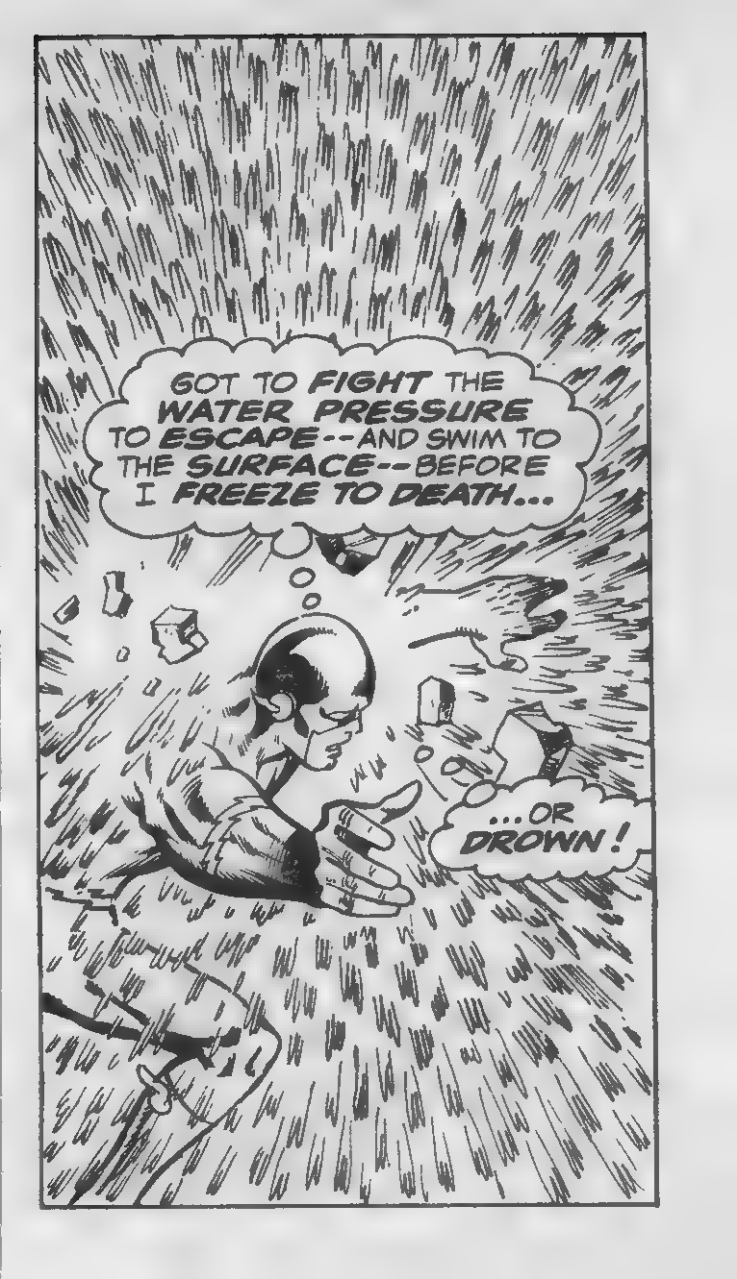
I'VE BROKEN THROUGH,
AND --HUNH?! **WATER??**

OF
COURSE!
I MAY BE
TRAPPED
INSIDE A
**MAN-MADE
ICEBERG...**



...BUT IT'S STILL MOSTLY
SUBMERGED--JUST LIKE
A **NATURAL ONE!**



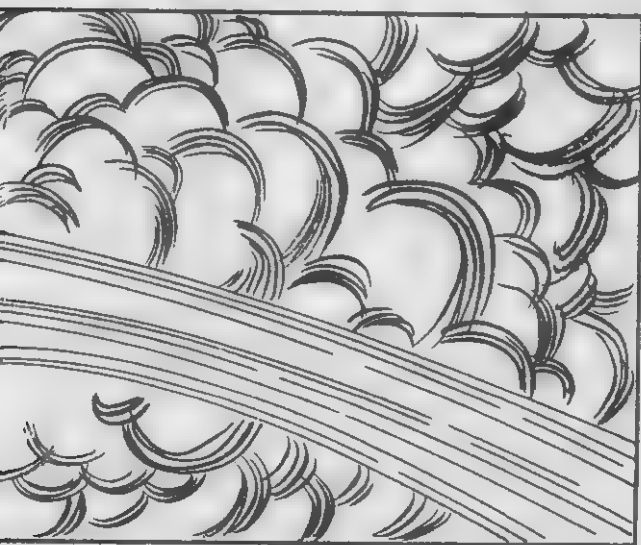
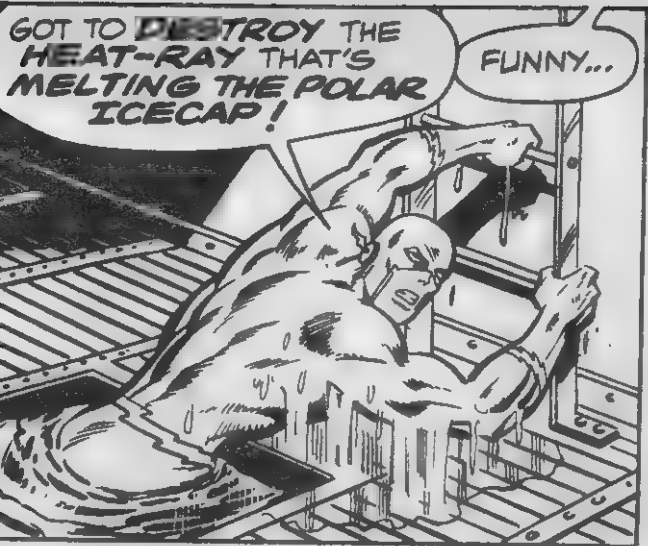
A black and white comic panel showing a man in a suit struggling underwater. He is surrounded by debris from a sinking ship, including a life preserver and various boxes. The water is depicted with heavy, diagonal hatching lines, creating a sense of intense pressure and movement. The man has a determined expression, with his mouth open as if shouting or gasping. A large speech bubble above him contains his thoughts, and a smaller one to his right shows a continuation of his desperate situation.

**GOT TO FIGHT THE
WATER PRESSURE
TO ESCAPE--AND SWIM TO
THE SURFACE--BEFORE
I FREEZE TO DEATH...**

**...OR
DROWN!**

**STRUGGLING AT
SUPER-SPEED
AGAINST
NEAR-CRUSHING
WATER PRESSURE,
THE FLASH
SWIMS TO THE
OCEAN'S SURFACE...
AFTER ESCAPING
THE DEATH
CHAMBER IN
THE GLACIER...**







A black and white comic book panel showing Flash in a state of intense action. He is depicted from the waist up, wearing his iconic suit with the 'S' shield on his chest. His right arm is raised in a power fist, and his left hand is clenched into a fist. He is surrounded by a chaotic scene of destruction, with numerous sharp, angular fragments of debris floating in the air. In the upper left, a small, three-eyed alien head is visible, looking towards Flash. The background is filled with dense, radiating lines, suggesting a powerful impact or explosion. Two speech bubbles are present: one at the top left and another at the bottom center.

**SORRY, FLASH! I KNOW
YOU WANTED TO DESTROY
VANDAL SAVAGE'S
HEAT-PROTECTOR...**

**...BUT I'M
BEATING YOU TO
THE PUNCH!**



MEANTIME, FLASH,
I SUGGEST YOU GO
TO NEW YORK--
AND GIVE **WONDER
WOMAN** A HAND
WITH THAT
TORNADO!

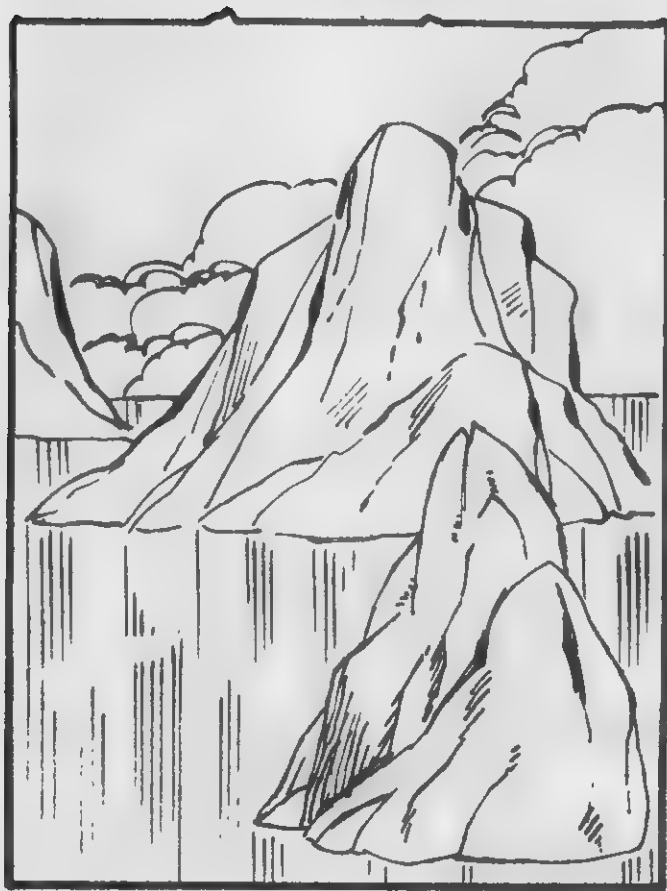


I'LL GIVE IT MY
BEST SHOT!

HIGH OVER THE NORTH ATLANTIC FLIES
SUPERMAN--EXHALING A MIGHTY
SUPER-BREATH...



**...WHOSE FREEZING-
COLD TEMPERATURE
INSTANTLY RESTORES
THE HALF-MELTED
POLAR ICECAP TO ITS
ORIGINAL FORM!**



WHILE IN NEW YORK...

ANY **SECOND** NOW
THIS TV ANTENNA
IS GOING TO **SNAP**
OFF-- AND I'M AS
GOOD AS **DEAD!**

WAIT--! PERHAPS
THERE IS A WAY
I CAN ESCAPE
THIS TRAP--!

**CALLING
ROBOT
PLANE!**

**IN SECONDS, WONDER
WOMAN'S TELEPATHICALLY
CONTROLLED TRANSPARENT
PLANE RESPONDS TO HER
MENTAL SUMMONS--
DESCENDING FROM ITS
HOLDING PATTERN
OVER NEW YORK...**



**THANKS TO MY PLANE'S
V.T.O.L. * CAPABILITY,
IT CAN HOVER THERE--
DIRECTING ITS FLAMING
JET-EXHAUST AT ME...**



***VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING!**



...TO **BURN THROUGH**
THE CHAINS BINDING MY WRISTS--
BREAKING THEM!

NOW THAT MY HANDS
ARE **FREE**, I CAN
LOOSEN MY LASSO
FROM AROUND
MY BODY--



--AND **SNARE** THE TOP
OF THE **EMPIRE STATE**
BUILDING WITH IT...
TO KEEP FROM
FALLING!



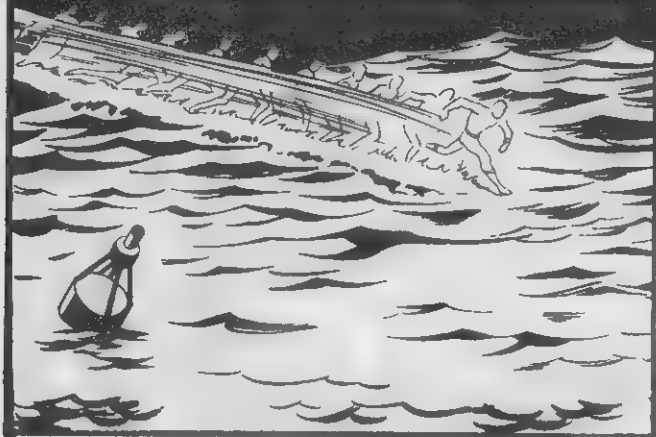
**IN THE NEXT SECOND, THE SCARLET
SPEEDSTER ARRIVES IN NEW YORK
FROM THE NORTH POLE!**



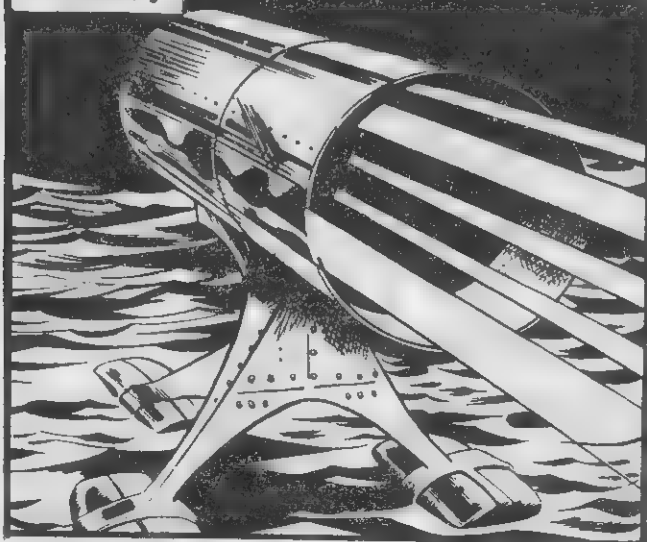
**TWO OF VANDAL SAVAGE'S
INSIDIOUS MACHINES
HAVE BEEN DESTROYED--
WHICH LEAVES ONLY
ONE MORE TO GO!**



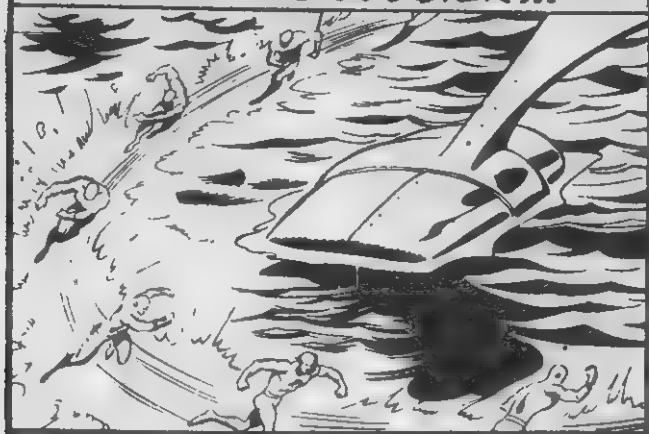
**THE FLASH FINDS THE DEVICE CREATING
THE TORNADO IN NEW YORK--**



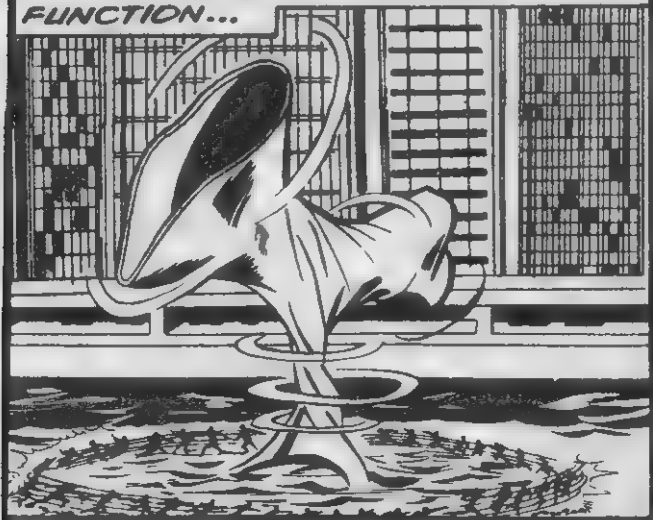
**--FLOATING ON PONTOONS IN THE EAST
RIVER !**



**AROUND AND AROUND VANDAL
SAVAGE'S TORNADO-MAKER RACES
THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER...**



**THE SUPER-SPEED AIR CURRENTS HE
CREATES TWIST THE DEVICE OUT OF
SHAPE--CAUSING IT TO MAL-
FUNCTION...**



...OVERHEAT... AND EXPLODE!

BAWOC





**MOMENTS
LATER...**

**WE'VE AVERTED THREE OF
SAVAGE'S DISASTERS,
WONDER WOMAN--AND
FREED OURSELVES FROM
HIS TRAPS...**



**BUT SAVAGE
WON'T STOP
THERE --**

**HE CERTAINLY WON'T!
SO NOW IS THE TIME
TO MOVE AGAINST
HIM--BEFORE HE
DISCOVERS WE'VE
SURVIVED HIS
MURDER
ATTEMPTS!**



**THEN, AFTER FORMULATING
THEIR BATTLE STRATEGY..**

**I'D BETTER RADIO AQUAMAN
AT HEADQUARTERS ON MY
JUSTICE LEAGUE COM-
MUNICATOR--AND TELL HIM
TO TELEPORT
US UP!**



?

**THERE'S NO
ANSWER TO
MY SIGNAL!
SOMETHING
MUST HAVE
HAPPENED
TO AQUAMAN!**



**WONDER WOMAN,
YOU GO TAKE CARE
OF YOUR PART OF OUR
BATTLE STRATEGY!**

**FLASH
AND I
WILL GO
BACK TO
HEAD-
QUARTERS
AND CHECK ON
AQUAMAN!...**



**"...WHATEVER'S HAPPENING UP
THERE COULD BE DANGEROUS!
IT MAY TAKE TWO OF US TO HANDLE
IT!"**



**INSIDE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE
HEADQUARTERS, AQUAMAN LIES
UNCONSCIOUS-- BATHED IN
STRANGE RADIATIONS WHICH PENE-
TRATE THE HULL OF THE SATELLITE...
UNDER WHOSE INFLUENCE HE
SLOWLY BEGINS TO DEMATERIALIZE...**



**...ONLY TO REAPPEAR INSIDE THE
SECRET LAIR OF VANDAL
SAVAGE...**

THE HEROES MAY
HAVE ESCAPED MY
TRAPS--BUT THEY
WON'T **DARE**
TAKE THE
OFFENSIVE...

**...NOW THAT
I HAVE A
HOSTAGE!!**



**THE JUSTICE
LEAGUE WILL
NEVER GUESS
THAT I WAS
ABLE TO TRAP
THEM--AND
KIDNAP
AQUAMAN...**

**...BECAUSE THE
LOCATION OF
MY LAIR
PERMITS ME
TO **SPY** ON
THEIR **EVERY**
MOVE!**



I COULD PLANT MY TRAPS
WHEREVER I WISHED--
FORCING THE HEROES TO
BLUNDER INTO THEM-- BY
TELEPORTING MY
SUPER-SCIENTIFIC
EQUIPMENT DOWN TO
THE EARTH'S SURFACE!

FOR I,
TOO, AM
HEAD-
QUARTERED
22,300
MILES
ABOVE
EARTH...



...IN A SATELLITE
MUCH LIKE THE
LEAGUE'S OWN!



SUDDENLY, VANDAL SAVAGE IS SURPRISED BY...



SUPERMAN!?

**YES, SAVAGE!
YOU WERE
TOO BUSY
KIDNAPPING
AQUAMAN BY
TELEPORTATION-
BEAM TO WATCH
YOUR MONITORS...**

**... OR YOU WOULD'VE
NOTICED I'D *BURNED*
OUT ALL YOUR SATELLITE'S
DETECTION AND DEFENSE
SYSTEMS WITH MY
HEAT VISION!**




**BLAST YOUR
SUPER-SPEED,
SUPERMAN!
YOU SNEAKED ABOARD
SO FAST MY
SENSORS COULDN'T
DETECT YOU!**

**NO MATTER--
TAKE ONE
MORE STEP--
AND
AQUAMAN
DIES!**





**MY SWORD--
FLYING OUT
OF MY HAND--?!**

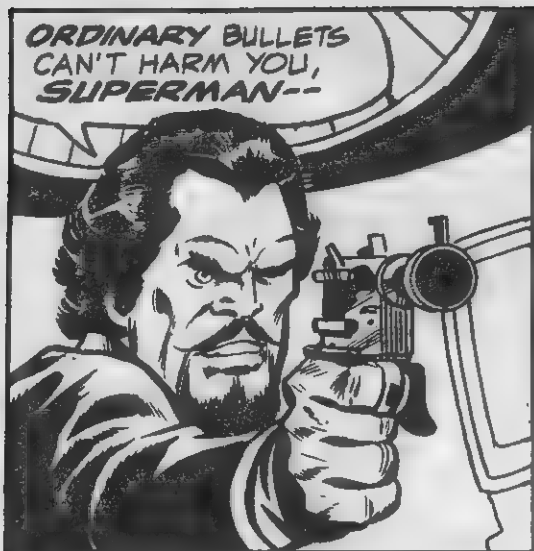


**NOT FLYING, SAVAGE--JUST
PLUCKED OUT OF YOUR GRASP
AT INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED--
BY THE FLASH!**



**I CAME
ABOARD
WITH
SUPERMAN!**





**GUESS AGAIN,
SAVAGE!**

ZING!

A black and white comic book panel. At the top, a speech bubble contains the text "GUESS AGAIN, SAVAGE!". Below it, a character's large, muscular arm is shown in the process of striking a target. The impact is depicted with a large, bright starburst effect. In the bottom left corner, the sound effect "ZING!" is written in large, bold, stylized letters. The background features some abstract, curved lines suggesting a landscape or a structure.

**WONDER
WOMAN!**

THAT'S
RIGHT! **FLASH**
OPENED A
CHANNEL ON
HIS **COMMUNI-
CATOR** AND
I TRAILED THE
SIGNAL HERE!



ONCE YOU'RE BOUND
BY MY **MAGIC LASSO**,
YOU'LL BE **FORCED**
TO OBEY MY COMMANDS!

**WILL I,
MY
PRETTY?**



YOU'LL HAVE TO **ROPE** ME
FIRST! BUT YOU **CAN'T**
DO THAT, CAN YOU, MY DEAR?
NOT TO **ME**--NOT TO YOUR
MASTER!



N-NO... NO--I...
CAN'T! HE'S GOT
SOME KIND OF...
HOLD ON ME--!

I CAN'T... **BRING**
MYSELF ... TO
RAISE A HAND
AGAINST HIM--!



WONDER WOMAN IS POWERLESS
AGAINST ME--THANKS TO A HYPNOTIC
SUGGESTION PLACED IN HER MIND
WHEN I APPEARED BEFORE HER AS
A 3-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION!



AND IF YOU TAKE ONE
STEP TOWARD ME,
SUPERMAN--
I'LL KILL WONDER WOMAN!



SLOWLY... PAINFULLY... AQUAMAN
REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

SO... WEAK--
BEEEN OUT OF
WATER TOO
LONG...



WAIT--
THAT BOTTLE
ON THE TABLE..
IF I CAN
KNOCK
IT OVER--
AHH!

VANDAL SAVAGE GLOATS IN TRIUMPH, UNAWARE OF AQUAMAN BEHIND HIM...

NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL AT BAY --
YOU'LL BE FORCED TO WATCH AS MY MACHINES DESTROY HALF THE EARTH...



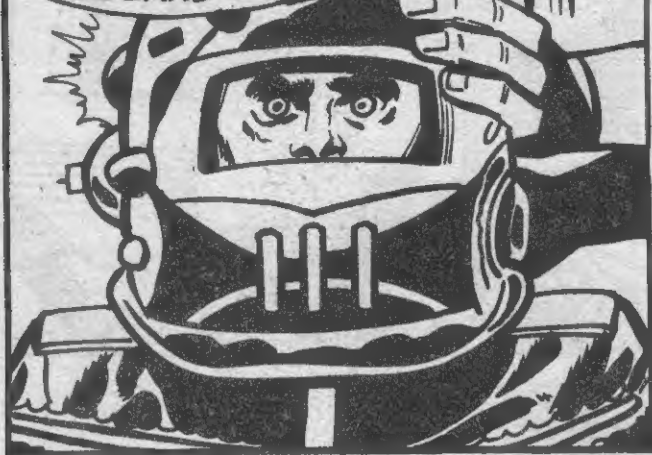
...TAKING BILLIONS OF LIVES--RENDERING ME IMMORTAL--
UNNH

THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOING TO BE RENDERED, SAVAGE, IS UNCONSCIOUS!





NOW -- WITH THIS
AMAZONIAN **SUSPENDED-
ANIMATION HELMET**
WONDER WOMAN
BROUGHT WITH HER
FROM **PARADISE
ISLAND--**



--WE CAN KEEP VANDAL
SAVAGE IN **SUSPENDED
ANIMATION** LIKE
RIP VAN WINKLE--
UNTIL HIS FATE CAN
BE DECIDED BY
AN INTERNATIONAL
COURT!

SUPERMAN,
I'D SAY THIS
CASE IS
CLOSED!





These are the eyes of the *OLDEST MAN ALIVE*—and the *DEADLIEST! VANDAL SAVAGE*—the immortal villain—has lived 50,000 years. And if he destroys *THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPERHEROES*, he will live forever! *Superman*, *Wonder Woman*, the *Flash*, and *Aquaman* must escape a series of deadly traps to stop Savage's evil scheme which, if successful, will destroy New York with a tornado, obliterate Cairo with a sandstorm, and melt the polar ice caps! Will they be able to halt these global disasters? The fate of the entire world depends on the outcome of the battle contained within these pages!



A Tom Doherty Associates Book